



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## India

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

### Revision to Import Requirements for Almonds

2004

**Approved by:**

Chad R. Russell

U.S. Embassy, FASNEWDELHI

**Prepared by:**

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**Report Highlights:**

Short-term relief granted to exporters of US almonds to India.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
New Delhi [IN1]  
[IN]

"Mission" refers to the US Embassy, New Delhi.

1. Summary: On March 23, 2004, the Government of India (GOI) issued a letter (see paragraphs 5 and 6) that brings short-term relief to exporters of US almonds to India, which have been severely impacted by new import regulations. Almonds that are shipped from the United States no later than May 4, 2004, may be fumigated with Phosphine before departure and are subject to inspection and fumigation by methyl bromide upon arrival in India, as under the old regulation. The Mission continues to work closely with the GOI and Washington agencies to arrive at long-term resolutions to this and other issues related to India's new regulation. End Summary.

2. Background. On January 1, 2004, the GOI implemented new import procedures and plant protection and quarantine requirements, which, among other things, severely disrupted US almond exports to India, valued at \$81 million in 2003. (see GAIN reports IN3126 & IN4012)

3. The Mission interceded with appropriate GOI ministries, informing them that they were not in compliance with WTO notification procedures and offering to consult with them on these new regulations. Subsequently, the GOI notified the new regulation to the WTO on March 4, 2004, but did not suspend it, as requested. A USDA technical team held discussions with interlocutors at the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture on March 11 and 12, and a short-term solution for almonds was reached, confirmed by this March 23 GOI letter.

4. Technically, this letter is a continuation of the pre-January 1 procedures. According to Ministry of Agriculture interlocutors, all imports of dried fruits and nuts, including almonds, were inspected and fumigated with methyl bromide under a 1927 regulation. The Mission will continue to closely monitor arrivals of US almonds.

5. The text of the GOI's March 23 letter follows in paragraph 6. The letter is addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture's plant protection advisor; is signed by Mr. Amand Shah, a Deputy Secretary in the same ministry; and is copied to the Indian embassy in Washington, this Mission, and Dr. Reddy, Joint Director in the Ministry of Agriculture. Note that dates within the text are Indian-style, so that 4-5-2004 means May 4, 2004.

6. BEGIN TEXT Subject: Decision on release of Almond consignments being imported from USA. I am directed to invite your attention on above subject and to say that it has been decided that almond export consignments, already shipped or to be shipped from USA, before 4-5-2004 may be allowed Plant Quarantine clearance on the basis of Phosphine fumigation at their end and inspection/methyle bromide treatment on arrival in India. The above arrangement shall apply to all consignments of almonds which are shipped from USA on or before 4-5-2004. You are requested to inform all Plant Quarantine Stations and take other necessary action to ensure compliance, under intimation to this Ministry. END TEXT